

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
110 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030 (408) 354-6872

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS AUGUST 7, 2008
HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, 208 EAST MAIN STREET, LOS
GATOS, CALIFORNIA.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Joe Pirzynski.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Joe Pirzynski, John Bourgeois, Michael Kane, Tom O'Donnell, Barbara Cardillo, Jim Foley, Melanie Hanssen, Perry Hariri, Tim Lundell, Jane Ogle, Dan Ross, Tom Spilsbury, Deborah Weinstein & Gordon Yamate.

Members absent: Barbara Spector, Kevin Kelly, Libby Lane Margaret Smith.

Staff present: Greg Larson, Town Manager; *Bud Lortz*, Director of Community Development, *Suzanne Davis*, Associate Planner; *Sandy Baily*, Associate Planner; *Jennifer Savage*, Assistant Planner; *Marni Moseley*, Assistant Planner.

Public attendees: Peggy Dallas, Ray Davis.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ray Davis spoke about his experience participating in the public process.

Bud Lortz explained that the Council has identified four areas of focus for the General Plan update including child and senior services, sustainability/green building and recreation.

**ITEM 1 GUEST PRESENTATION BY DON WEDEN: 'THE WINDS OF
CHANGE' - Adapting Our Communities to the Changing Realities of the
21st Century.**

Anticipate coming changes and prepare for them.

- Major changes and challenges that will be faced in the coming years (economic, demographic and environmental conditions)
- Significant adaptations needed in land use plans
- General Plan and Housing element updates an opportunity to make changes
- How and where we house our future population
- Plan to become intelligently more urban
- Conventional planning approaches may not be adequate
- Become better at building public support to overcome resistance to change

Changes and challenges:

- Cyclical change (no adjustment necessary)
- Structural change (adaptation, major adjustments are needed by local communities)

Eight forces shaping our world:

- Population growth
- Aging of baby boomers
- Global warming
- Rising energy costs
- Rising food costs
- Disaster potential
- Public health,
- Global economic competition
- Water supply
- Baby boomers (those born 1946-1964) are aging. One of five residents in the County will be over the age of 65 by 2030.
- Need to increase efforts to provide more housing choices. For some seniors, urban living is a choice, for others it is essential.
- Non-driving seniors face a loss of quality of life.

Three basic responses to global warming:

- mitigate (reduce greenhouse gas emissions)
- adapt
- suffer

AB32 – Greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets (goals)

Strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Increase number of people per vehicle
- Make transit and walking more viable options
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Make land use patterns more energy efficient

Threats to food affordability

- Rise of other countries' economies
- Loss of prime farmland

Becoming intelligently more urban

- Focused higher densities
- Mixing compatible land uses
- Planning for people
- Increasing choices
- Increasing mobility opportunities

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- Protecting and enhancing existing neighborhoods
- Putting traffic into its proper perspective
- Planning for diversity
- Making it easier for good development to get approved

Create livable, green, urban neighborhoods

- livable neighborhoods – convenient, safe, healthy, diverse, vibrant, nurturing
- green neighborhoods – energy and water efficient, minimizing pollution, nature friendly, greenhouse gas reduction, sustainable
- Urban neighborhoods – higher density, mixed use, transit oriented, walkable and bikeable, synergistic

Suggestions for successful, responsible urban planning


- Recognize the critical importance of upcoming planning opportunity
- Focus the community dialogue on future needs
- Establish responsible success criteria
- Think big
- Build community support for change

Question and answer period/discussion

ITEM 2 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. The next meeting of the General Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 21, 2008.

Prepared by:


Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner